

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Dean M. Walker

Examiner: Meredith C. Petravick

Application No.: 10/602,417

Group Art Unit: 3671

Filing Date: June 23, 2003

Docket No.: WALK.01USU1

Title: Walk Behind Mower

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT C

Dear Sir:

In response to the Non-Final Office Action dated April 26, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

REMARKS begin on page 4 of this paper.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 (cancelled without prejudice).

Claim 4 (currently amended): A self propelled walk behind mower comprising:

- a tractor unit having a forward end and a rearward end that define a lengthwise direction;

- an engine mounted on said tractor unit;

- hydrostatic drives mounted to said tractor unit that are driven by said engine;

- drive wheels coupled to said hydrostatic drives at said forward end of said tractor unit;

- a third wheel pivotally attached to said rearward end of said tractor unit that allows said tractor unit to stand upright with respect to a plane defined by said drive wheels and said third wheel when no implements are attached to said tractor unit and is fully supported by said drive wheels and said third wheel;

- handles attached to said tractor unit that extend rearwardly in said lengthwise direction, and that have controls that allow a user to control said tractor unit;

- deck attachment arms that extend in a forward direction from said forward end of said tractor unit;

- a pivot attached to said forward end of said tractor unit and to said deck attachment arms that allow said deck attachment arms to pivot about an axis that is transverse to said lengthwise direction;

- a mowing deck having a forward end and a rearward end, and at least two front wheels mounted on said forward end of said mowing deck;

- deck attachment receivers disposed at said rearward end of said mowing deck that detachably engage said deck attachment arms so that said mowing deck pivots with respect to said tractor unit about said transverse axis, said deck attachment having a compliant connector that allows said mowing deck to flexibly move with respect to said tractor unit; and

a suspension that detachably connects said mowing deck to said tractor unit and supports said rearward end of said mowing deck.

Claims 5-7 (cancelled without prejudice).

Claim 8 (currently amended): The self propelled walk behind mower of claim 7 4 wherein said pivot further comprises:

a pivot that operates in a range of approximately five degrees above and below said plane defined by said drive wheel and said third wheel.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The self propelled walk behind mower of claim 6 4 wherein said hydro drives further comprise:

a first hydro axle that is attached to a first wheel and that powers said first wheel, so that said first wheel rotates in a forward and reverse direction in response to an input from an operator; and

a second hydro axle that is attached to a second wheel and that powers said second wheel so that said second wheel rotates in a forward and reverse direction in response to an input from an operator.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The self propelled walk behind mower of claim 9 wherein said drive wheels are substantially aligned with said pivot in said lengthwise direction at said forward end of said tractor.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 6-10 were last presented for examination. In the last Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 7 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 4 to include all of the limitations of claims 6 and 7. In addition, claims 8 and 9 have been amended to be dependent on claim 4. The claims in the application include the limitations of the allowable subject matter.

This application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Dated this 25th day of May 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

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